

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 were pending as of the action mailed on 8 March 2007.

Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 11 and 13 are being amended; claims 2 and 9 are being canceled and no claims have been newly added. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 8, 10 and 11 may be found in the applicant's specification at least at page 4, lines 8-11, page 5, lines 2-7 and page 6, lines 6-10. No new matter has been added.

Reexamination and reconsideration of the action are requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Specification

The specification is being amended to correct a typographical error as noted above. The support for the amendment to the specification may be found in claim 10 as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

The examiner objected to claim 8 noting that "it was not clear how a paper with printed matter is to be converted to canonical form". For improved clarity, the examiner suggested amending the claim language to recite "converting the text of the print out". The applicant has amended the claim language accordingly. Withdrawal of the claim objection is therefore respectfully requested.

Section 101

The examiner has rejected claims 8, 9, 11-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. To expedite prosecution, and without prejudice, claims 8 and 11 are being amended to overcome the rejection. Claims 9 and 12-17 respectively depend from claims 8 and 11.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 is respectfully requested.

Section 102

Claims 1-4 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0069179 ("Slater").

Claims 1 and 11

Claims 1 and 11 are being amended to recite the relationships between control codes, approval codes and approvals marks as used with an external entity that does not exchange electronic documents within a workflow system. The applicant respectfully submits that the recited limitations are not found in Slater.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Section 103

Claims 5-10 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Slater.

Claims 8 and 10

Claims 8 and 10 are being amended to recite the relationships between control codes, approval codes and approvals marks as used with an external entity that does not exchange electronic documents within a workflow system. The applicant respectfully submits that the recited limitations are not found in Slater.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Remaining Claims

The remaining claims depend from or correspond to independent claims 1, 8, 10 and 11, and are allowable for at least the reasons that apply to those independent claims.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the applicant submits that all the claims are in condition for allowance.

By responding in the foregoing remarks only to particular positions taken by the examiner, the applicant does not acquiesce with other positions that have not been explicitly addressed. In addition, the applicant's selecting some particular arguments for the patentability of a claim should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of that claim exist. Finally, the applicant's decision to amend or cancel any claim should not be understood as implying that the applicant agrees with any positions taken by the examiner with respect to that claim or other claims.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8 June 2007

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